

**EPA Roles, Responsibilities and Principles
for Implementing Core Performance Measures**
(Including Accountability Measures and Associated Reporting Requirements)

- Core Performance Measures state what will be *measured* to assess progress towards goals. They do not establish targets for what will be accomplished. National targets (or milestones) are used to quantify the desired outcomes to be achieved within a specific time frame (such as the 2005 strategic objectives in the EPA Strategic Plan or the Annual Performance Goals in EPA's FY 99 Annual Plan and Budget Request). National targets may be translated into Region- or State-specific targets that are negotiated within the context of operating year budgets or grants.
- The EPA National Program Managers (NPMs) are responsible for working with EPA Regions, States, and other appropriate organizations as they develop Core Performance Measures, and for issuing these measures in the January prior to the fiscal year in which they will be used. NPMs should give special consideration to the views of State or local officials who implement the programs being measured.
- The Regions are responsible for obtaining data on the Core Performance Measures from all States (whether or not they have a Performance Partnership Agreement with EPA) because these measures are intended to paint a picture of environmental and program progress across the nation.
- EPA Regions should be flexible in implementing the measures in individual States. Circumstances in which it may be appropriate to adjust a measure or exempt a State from a measure include: the State does not have authority for the program; the measure does not apply to the State; or data for the measure cannot be obtained or are available only in an alternative form.
- To ensure consistency in implementation of the national measures, EPA Regions are responsible for keeping the NPMs informed about adjustments they negotiate in the measures for an individual State, and must consult in advance with the appropriate NPM before exempting a State from a measure, or modifying a measure. Regions should elevate any substantive issue with the measures to the appropriate NPM.
- The NPMs are responsible for working with the States and Regions to clarify which data are needed to support each measure, the source of the data, and in what form, means and frequency the data are to be reported to the NPM. The data should be accessible to Regions and States for their use.
- Each National Program Manager should give high priority to streamlining national data systems and reducing unnecessary State reporting. These efforts should be coordinated with the joint EPA/State Information and Data Management Work Group co-chaired by Chuck Fox and Brent Bradford.